



Weekly Prayer Focus: 23rd July 2023 Westcliff Baptist Church

Westcliff Baptist Church is in an urban suburb of Southend-on-Sea, a city on the Thames Estuary in Essex. There are around 25,000 people living in Westcliff-on-Sea, around 10% of the overall population of Southend-on-Sea.

Rev Andrew Marshall has been the minister for almost four years. The fellowship is very diverse which reflects the local community. Around 100 adults and children are part of the Sunday worshipping community and, since COVID, they have adopted a different structure for Sunday worship. One notable success has been moving the refreshments from after to before the gathering. This change has helped to create a great atmosphere and 'buzz' as they approach their time of worship. Often there has been a reluctance to start the 'official' gathering because the depth of conversation that is happening over tea and coffee (and pastries/doughnuts)!

Once a month the morning gathering becomes 'Creative Church', a space with fun, laughter, teaching, crafts, and activities. Whenever there are five Sundays in a month, the church leaves the building and goes into people's homes, the community, parks, and the beach.

During the week at Westcliff Baptist Church, there are many different things happening. Home groups (soon to be life groups), online prayer space, discipleship group, prayer & Pilates, a youth programme, and a wellbeing space. The church is also used by several community groups, including a chamber choir, self-defence classes, toddler groups and baby massage.

This is a season of growth at Westcliff Baptist Church and God is bringing new people into the fellowship.

Prayer requests:

- To continue seeing new growth and people giving their lives to Christ.
- To learn the rhythms of their community.
- To be relevant to the people they serve.



Growing healthy churches in relationship for God's mission in the East of England